

2018 ServeMontana Symposium
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Tribal Relations in Montana

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Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
<https://tribalnations.mt.gov/>



Welcome!

Jason Smith, Director, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

Desired Outcomes

- Learn about the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- Explore Definitions of commonly used terms
- Homeland Maps
- Law and Policy
- Tribes in Montana
- AmeriCorps service in Indian Country
- Looking Ahead



Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, *History*

- 1951 established by the state legislature
- Facilitates effective tribal-state communications with special attention to the issues that Indian people face regarding their unique political status and as full citizens of the State of Montana.
- Liaison between State and Tribes
- Promotes economic development, environmental stewardship, education, support for social services, and enduring good will.
- Government to government relationship



Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, *Service*

- Maintains effective state-tribal communications
- Meet w/ state agencies and Tribes to address tribal issues
- Meet w/ tribes to discuss and listen to tribal priorities
- Provide recommendations to Governor & administration
- Work with Montana Legislature to pass laws to assist tribal people
- Meet and work w/ Congressional Delegation about tribal matters
- Assist native population to access state resources



Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, *Tribal Flags*



Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, *Tribal Leaders Summit*



Key Definitions of Commonly Used Terms

What/who is an Indian?

- Political, member of federally recognized Tribe
- Ethnic, racial, regarded as by community
- Blood quantum

What is a Tribe? Federal legal definition, Tribal community

What is a Reservation?

- Area 'reserved' for tribal people by the fed at the time US Constitution was ratified
- Term continued in use during forced relocation
- May or may not be ancestral territory, or even nearby or same tribes
- Originally set up to keep Indians separate and as for assimilation



Key Definitions of Commonly Used Terms

Where is Montana's Indian Country?

- Refers collectively to all Tribal lands & reservations

What does it mean when people say the Tribes are sovereign?

- Complex perspectives; US Supreme Court, Tribal Councils & Indian people
- Self determining, self-governing
- Yes also...Domestic dependent nation
- Trust/ Fiduciary relationship, fed has duty to 'protect'
- Enrollment criteria, tribal court jurisdiction
- Triple Citizenship, Tribal, State and US

Federal vs State Recognition

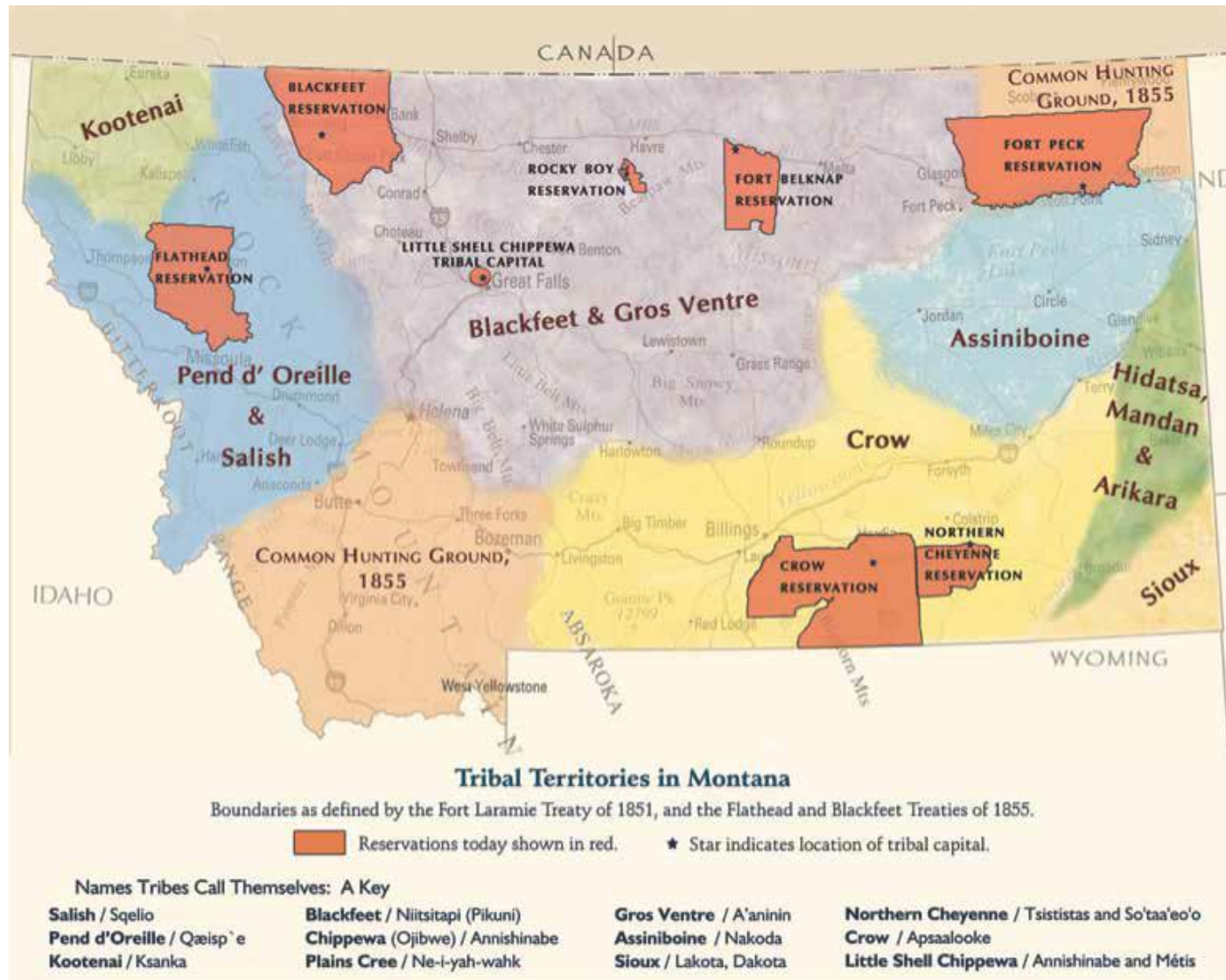


Whose Homeland did you grow up in?



<http://users.humboldt.edu/ogayle/hist110/na.html>

Whose Homeland are you serving in?



Law and Policy

North America was not untamed wilderness

1830 Indian Removal Act

- Land from southeast tribes to southern states

1934 Indian Reorganization Act – key legislation

- Recognizes the longevity of Indian People
- Constitutions, legal codes, corporate charters & loans
- Opt in or not, opting in came with federal resources
- Anglosized adversarial system, unlike tribal traditional ways



Law and Policy

1968 Indian Civil Rights Act, USC Title 25, sections 1301 - 1303.

- Applies to the Indian tribes of the United States and makes many, but not all, of the guarantees of the Bill of Rights applicable within the tribes. Freedom of speech, exercise of religion and more, but no right to a public defender.
- Option for more culturally appropriate systems, however Tribal Nations in Montana have not established such systems.
- Act imposed most requirements of the Bill of Rights, resulting in Tribal Courts and complex jurisdiction

1958 Public Law 280, aka PL280

- Transfer of legal authority/jurisdiction from fed to certain states for criminal & civil jurisdiction...some other states to have the option. CSKT only PL280.

Law and Policy

MCA 2-15-142 Guiding principles and documentation

- Commitment, communications, collaboration, cooperation
- Mutual understanding and respect
- Regular and early communication
- A process of accountability for addressing issues
- Preservation of state-tribal relationship

MCA 2-15-143 Training and consultation

- Tribal Leaders Summit
- Tribal Relations Training
- Tribal Relations Report



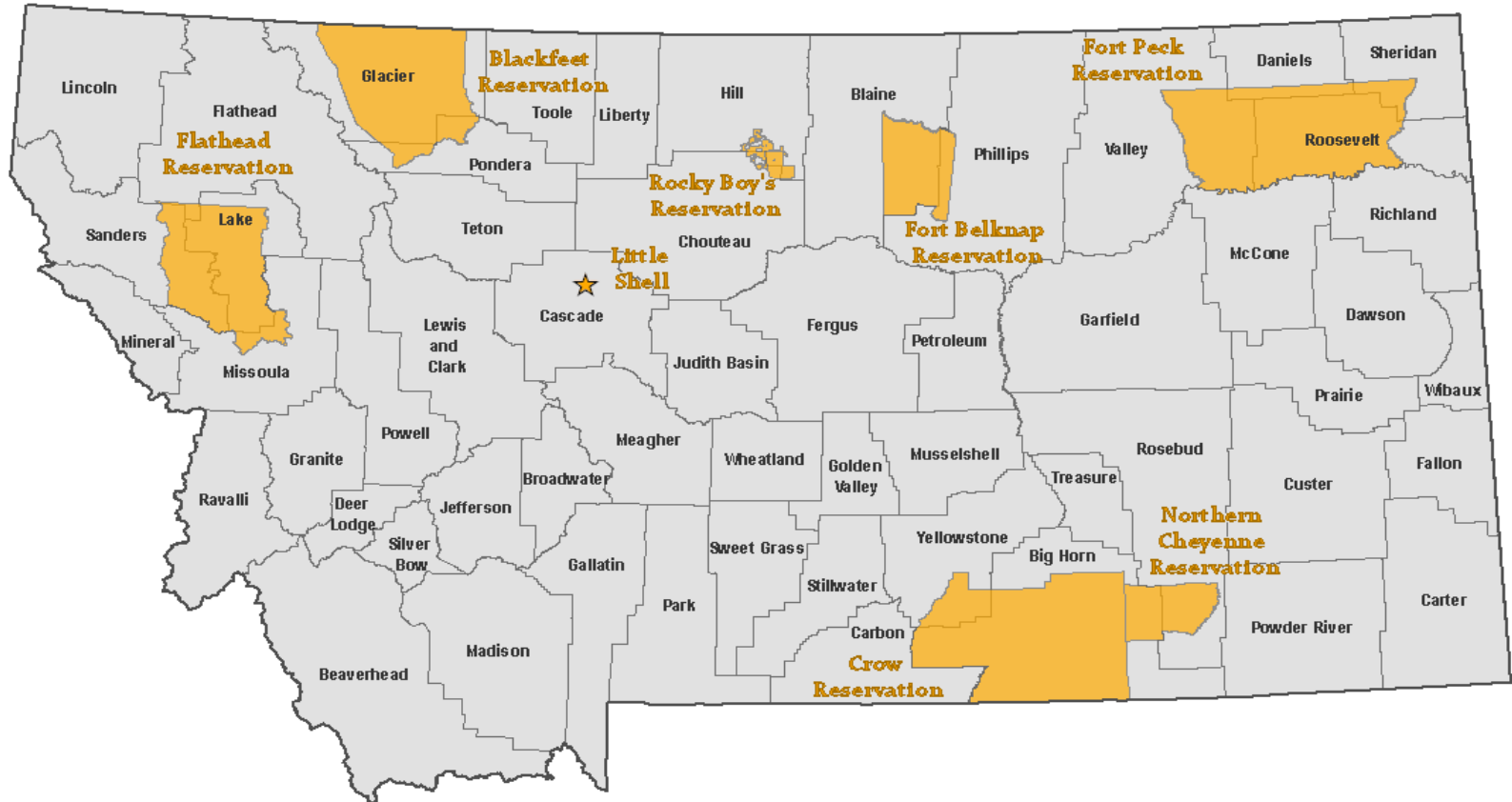
Tribal Nations in Montana

7-8% of Montana's population

69,073 Tribal members, 2016 census



Tribal Nations in Montana, each is unique



Blackfeet Nation

<http://blackfeetnation.com/>

- 17,321 Tribal Members, 1 of the 10 largest tribes in US, over 9,500 live on reservation
- Reservation is 1.5 million acres
- Tribal Government
- Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
 - 9 members elected every 2 years
- Blackfeet Community College
- Tribal Constitution
- Economy is primarily agricultural
- Jobs in Tribal Govt, Indian Health Service, Schools, Tribal College, Siyeh Dev. Corp, Casino's, Oki Communications, Glacier Family Foods Store
- North American Indian Days, Heart Butte Indian Days, Museum of the Plains Indian

Blackfeet Tribal Seal



- Created in 1980.
- Colors and design represent the earth.
- The circle represents the cycle of life.
- Feathers represent the bands within Blackfeet, arranged in a circle, like life.
- The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. The moon rises and sets in this circular motion. Blackfeet people pitch the lodges with the doors to the East, knowing that they start life with the circle in mind.

Chippewa Cree Tribe, Rocky Boy

- 6,390 Tribal Members, over 4,061 live on the reservation
- Reservation is 122,000 acres
- Tribal Government
- CCT Business Committee
 - 8 members elected every 4 years
- Stone Child College
- Tribal Constitution
- Economy is primarily agricultural and livestock
- Jobs Tribal Govt, Indian Health Service, Schools, Tribal College
- Bears Paw Mountains

<https://www.rmtlc.org/tribe/chippewa-cree-tribal-council/>

Chippewa Cree Tribal Seal



- The circle represents the circle of life. Baldy Butte is the Tribe's sacred mountain. The sun represents life rising from the east. The sun's rays represent the fifteen Sacred Grass Dance Chiefs who are active in preserving the culture of the tribe.
- The text under the sun represents good health and good fortune. The eagle represents strength, wisdom, bravery, and honor, all elements conceived from the bird that represents the thunder and lightning of the sacred sky.
- The buffalo, a source of food and shelter and sacred animal for Sundance.
- Tipi represents all values and customs.
- The sweet grass communicates with the creator and spirits.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Flathead

- Over 8,000 Tribal Members, over 5,400 live on the reservation
- Reservation is 1.3 million acres
- Tribal Government
 - Tribal Council
 - 10 members elected every 2 years
- Salish Kootenai College
- Tribal Constitution
- Economy, Tribal Govt, Tribal College, Gaming, Tribal Enterprises, Kerr Dam, MVP, Eagle Bank
- The People's Center, National Bison Range

<http://www.csktribes.org/> & <http://therezweliveon.com/>

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Seal



A People of Vision

- Created in the early 60's and produced by Corky Clairmont.
- Chief Koostatah, standing on a rock outcropping that overlooks roaring white water.
- The picture's intention is to show the people connecting to the land and water.
- Chief Koostatah was one of the last chiefs and was of Kootenai descent.

<http://www.csktribes.org/>

Crow Tribe of Indians, aka Crow Nation

- Over 13,542 Tribal Members, over 10,252 live on the reservation
- Reservation is 2.2 million acres
- Tribal Government
- Crow Tribal Executive Council...Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branch
- Little Big Horn Tribal College
- Tribal Constitution
- Economy is Tribal Govt, Indian Health Service, Tribal College, Coal development (mining)
- Crow Fair, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

<http://www.crow-nsn.gov/>

Crow Nation, Apsaalooke, Tribal Seal



- Seal designed by the Crow Cultural Commission
- The emblem which is encircled represents the Path of All Things. The sun and its rays are the clans of the Crow.
- The 3 mountains are the sacred mountains called Wolf Teeth, Pryor, and Big Horn Mtns. The 2 rivers are the Big Horn and Little Big Horn Rivers.
- The tipi is white and represents purity and goodness. The tipi four base poles that represent the seasons of life.
- The belief system consists of the clan system, sweat lodge, sacred tobacco bundle, and the pipe.

Fort Belknap Indian Community,

Home of the Nakoda & Aaniih Tribes

- 7,000 Tribal Members, over 4,546 live on the reservation
 - Gros Ventre & Assiniboine People
- Reservation is 675,147 acres
- Tribal Government
- Ft. Belknap Indian Community Council
 - 8 members (4 Assiniboine 4 Gros Venture)
 - Election every 2 years
- Aaniiiah Nakoda College, local radio station
- Tribal Constitution
- Economy is Tribal Govt, Tribal College, Tribal Business Enterprise (Island Dev. Corp.)
- Mission Canyon Natural Bridge

<https://ftbelknap.org/>

Fort Belknap Tribal Seal



- The shield represents protection for the GrosVentre and Assiniboiné Tribes along with the past, present, and future protection against losing tribal culture, tribal identity, and land base. The circular shape is life itself.
- The colors represent the four directions and seasons. Red=Summer, Yellow=Fall, White=Winter, Green=Spring
- The buffalo skull represents the existence of two tribes who function as a whole. The skull jagged line is the Milk River. Snake Butte is above the skull.
- The 2 arrowheads emphasize the strong traditional ties with the past.
- 7 feathers represent the tribal council.

Fort Peck Indian Reservation

Home of the Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes

- Over 13,112 Tribal Members, over 7,116 live on the reservation
 - Two distinct Tribes
- Reservation is over 2 million acres
- Tribal Government self governance
- Ft. Peck Tribal Executive Board
 - 12 members elected every 2 years
- Ft. Peck Community College
- Tribal Constitution
- Economy is Tribal Govt and Tribal College, Tribal Business Enterprises (Ft. Peck Tech, West Electronics)
- Wadopana Powwow, August

Fort Peck Tribes



- Created in the 1980's.
- The Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) received a request from oil companies drilling on the reservation to purchase water from the tribes. The oil companies requested a map of water ways on the reservation.
- After the map was created by TERO, it was discovered that the water ways on the map resembled the outline of a buffalo in the middle of the reservation boundaries. The seal includes this representation of the buffalo and the Ft. Peck Reservation boundaries were added to the drawing displayed on a hide.

Northern Cheyenne Nation

- Over 10,911 Tribal Members, over 4,939 live on the reservation
- Reservation is 440,000 acres
- Tribal Government self governance
- Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
 - 12 members
 - Executive and Legislative Branch
- Chief Dull Knife College
- Tribal Constitution
- Economy is Tribal Govt...fed govt, Tribal College, Chamber of Commerce
- Chief Two Moons Monument

<http://www.cheyennenation.com/>

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Seal



- The diamond shape represents the Morning Star who was Chief Dull Knife.
- The Morning Star's message is the past and present survival of the people.
- The Morning Star will rise each day and bring light to the Cheyenne people now and to those yet to be born.
- Both Chief Dull Knife and Little Wolf led their people 1500 miles on a heart breaking journey back from their forced placement in Oklahoma to the homeland in the great Northern Plains.

Little Shell Chippewa & Metis Tribe

- Over 5,400 Tribal Members, base in Great Falls
 - Exact numbers are not known
- State recognized in 2000, not federal
 - Feb 2017 Senate approved a bill granting federal recognition and requires US Dept of Interior to provide 200 acres
 - Still need a House bill
- No Reservation aka landless Tribe
- Tribal Government known as Executive Board
- Little Shell Tribal Council
 - 7 members
- No Tribal College

<http://www.montanalittleshelltribe.org/>

Little Shell Chippewa Tribal Seal



- Designed in 2006 by then Tribal Vice-Chairman James Parker Shield
- The buffalo was central to the survival and economy of the Pembina Chippewa (from whom the Little Shell are descended) and the Metis people.
- The buffalo faces west to symbolize their migration from the Great Lakes region in Minnesota to what is now North Dakota and Montana.

Urban Indian Centers in Montana

- Nonprofit agencies providing service to American Indians living off the Reservation
 - 34 nationwide, 5 in Montana Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Missoula
- Funding from Indian Health Service's Urban Indian Health Program
- Some are health clinics providing general medical, dental and behavioral services.
- Some are not health clinics, these provide a respectful gathering place for Native families, support healthy activities and tribal traditions, help people access resources, and promote wellness by offering emotional, mental and spiritual healing.

<http://tribalnations.mt.gov/urbanindian>

AmeriCorps Service to Indian Country

- VISTA, preAmeriCorps has been in service to Indian Country for decades
- AmeriCorps State & National, and VISTA actively serve Blackfeet, Crow, CSKT, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck Tribes, Northern Cheyenne, and Urban Indian centers.
- AmeriCorps service in Indian Country is unique and requires humility to gain cultural competency.
- Intersection of mainstream American values and traditional Native cultures.
 - Rez dogs, Indian time and other competencies
- Culture, Powwows, Indian relay, basketball & others, depends on community

Native Americans are the most resilient people!

Looking Ahead, it is bright!
Real needs and many good things happening

Increasing tribal representation in State Legislature and in leadership

Tribal colleges, education and economic development

Language and cultural preservation

Ceremony and traditional ways are healing people who then serve

Tribal ways recognize the value of young adults, the future and of elders, the past. Native Americans are here to stay!



Resources & Credits

Indian Law in a Nutshell, book by William C. Canby Jr.

Tribal websites

<http://therezweliveon.com/>

Tribal Relations Handbook

<http://tribalnations.mt.gov/Portals/34/Tribal%20Relations%20Handbook.pdf>

Tribal Nations In Montana: A Handbook for Legislators

- <http://leg.mt.gov/content/For-Legislators/Publications/tribal-nations-handbook-october2016.pdf>

Visit Montana, <http://www.visitmt.com/places-to-go/indian-nations.html>

<http://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/Page%20Files/Indian%20Education/Art/Crossing%20Boundaries%206-8.pdf>

MT Reservation Labor Markets

- https://lmi.mt.gov/Portals/135/Publications/LMI-Pubs/Articles/2014/0914-Montana_Reservation_Labor_Markets.pdf

Questions or Comments?



Thank you & Thank you for your AmeriCorps service!

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